

In the Drawings:

Applicant has amended the drawings and corrected FIGS. 4 and 6 to include reference signs mentioned in the description, namely, facing surface “32a” (¶[0019]), back surface “32b” (¶[0019]), lock washer “56” (¶[0022]). in accordance with 37 CFR §1.121(d). Applicant submits replacement drawings FIGS. 4 and 6 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.84(c). For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that the drawings are in condition for publication and allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Attachment:

Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, and 8-13 remain in this application. Claims 7 and 14-17 have been withdrawn; and Claims 1 and 8-11 have been amended. Claim 11 has been amended to reflect that the “bracket means” is the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention under 35 U.S.C. §112.

The drawing FIGS. 4 and 5 have been amended to address the Examiner’s objection. Claim 7 has been cancelled based on the Examiner’s objection to matter not shown in the drawings. Claims 4 and 5 are corrected and resubmitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

All of the claims have been amended to recite, among other things, a “combined T- and F-shape” bracket to elevate the tool box above the truck bed and securing means adapted “to lock together said bracket and the truck bed and the tool box.” For example, Claim 1 now recites:

a bracket ... configured to be a generally combined T- and F-shape that elevates the tool box above the truck bed a predetermined height so as to allow oversized materials to be stored thereunder; and

means to secure said bracket to each of the truck bed and the tool box at said predetermined height, said means being adapted to lock together said bracket and the truck bed and the tool box.

Similarly, Claim 11 now recites:

bracket means for suspending the tool box from the side walls of the truck bed, said bracket means configured in a generally combined T- and F-shape, said bracket means including a securing means to secure said bracket means to each side wall and to the tool box at a desired elevation above the floor of the truck bed, said securing means being adapted to lock together said bracket means and the truck bed and the tool box.

Support is found in the specification at FIGS. 2-5. Applicant respectfully traverses the objections to independent claims 1 and 11 based on the foregoing. Other claim amendments are unrelated to patentability over the cited references. For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes claims 1-6 and 8-13 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Pierce et al. (U.S. 6,948,645) (the “Pierce et al.” reference). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. The present claim amendments avoid the Pierce et al. reference because Pierce et al. does not teach, suggest or disclose the structural element of a “combined T- and F-shape” bracket to elevate the tool box above the truck bed. Moreover, Pierce et al. does not teach, suggest or disclose the structural element and limitations of the securing means adapted “to lock together said bracket and the truck bed and the tool box.” Furthermore, Pierce et al. does not suggest the combination of the combined T- and F- shaped bracket and securing means to secure the tool box to the truck bed at an elevated height.

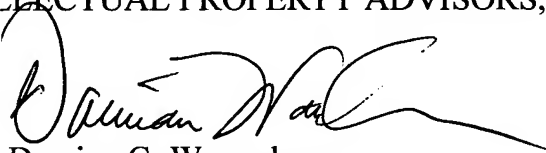
Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Wilding (U.S. 6,464,277) (the “Wilding” reference). Withdrawal of the rejection is

respectfully requested. The present claim amendments avoid the Wilding reference because Wilding does not teach, suggest or disclose the structural element of a “combined T- and F-shape” bracket to elevate the tool box above the truck bed. Moreover, Wilding does not teach, suggest or disclose the structural element and limitations of the securing means adapted “to lock together said bracket and the truck bed and the tool box.” Furthermore, Wilding does not suggest the combination of the combined T- and F- shaped bracket and securing means to secure the tool box to the truck bed at an elevated height.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for examination and requests an allowance of such embodiments and claims. Applicants' attorney should be contacted for any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,
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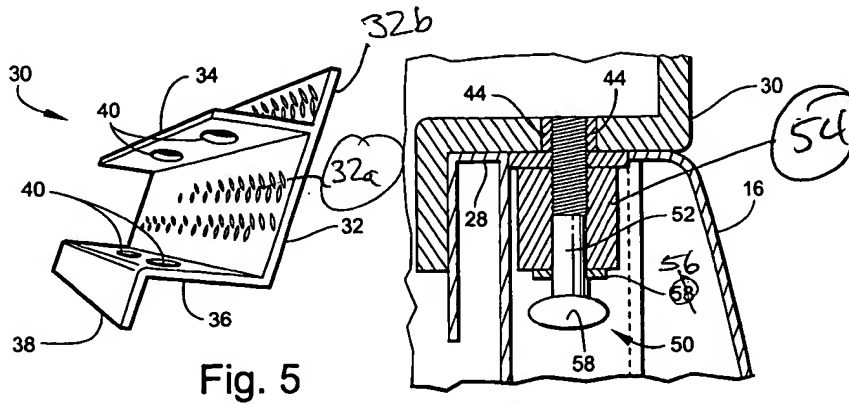


Fig. 5

Fig. 4

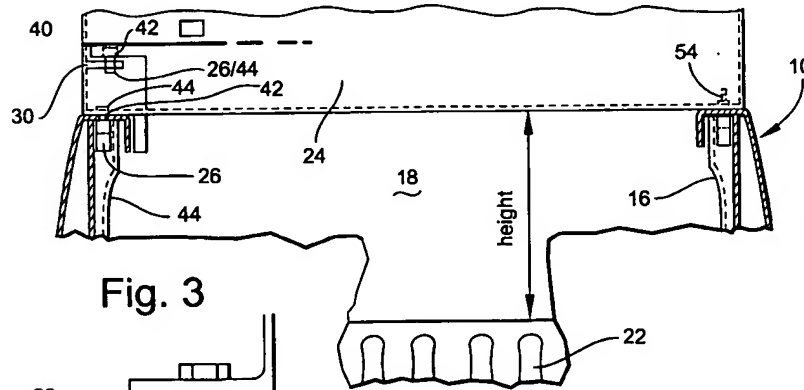


Fig. 3

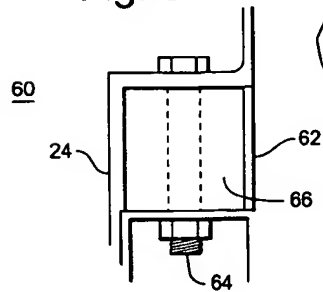


Fig. 6